

- Introduction for -

RICHARD KITHIL

“If you can See It, Flee It; If you can Hear It, Clear It”

-and-

“Move from a high risk situation to a low risk location.”

These are the two fundamental lightning safety messages for all situations .

RICHARD KITHIL (“kit-hill”) is Founder and CEO of the National Lightning Safety Institute or “N.L.S.I.”, a non-profit consulting, education and research group near Denver, Colorado. Check out the NLSI Internet site at:

www.lightningsafety.com

Rich Kithil has written more than 200 articles, papers and reports on lightning safety issues. He has presented lightning safety clinics, workshops and seminars to groups in this country and overseas. He is frequently quoted in the national press and he has appeared on NBC Dateline, ABC 20-20, the Discovery Channel, National Geographic, BBC and other TV programs to discuss lightning safety. An 800 page *Lightning Safety Handbook*, to be published May 2001 by Harcourt Brace, is in press. More than 300 subject-matter experts have graduated from NLSI’s acclaimed two day lightning safety workshop.

NLSI clients include government agencies such as US Dept. Defense, US Dept. Energy, Federal Aviation Administration, NASA, NOAA, etc. The US Air Force sent him to Portugal to look at lightning problems at a military radar station. Later, he reviewed the 1996 lightning deaths at Hurburt Field, FL for the Air Force. That same year he collaborated with US Dept. Energy’s Office of Nuclear and Facility Safety to prepare their document *Lightning Safety*. He worked with NASA at Johnson Space Center in 1997 and 1998 and at Kennedy Space Center on lightning safety also in 1998. He consulted in 1999 with WUSA-TV in Washington DC on lightning issues, including ENG trucks. He was appointed a member of the Dept. Defense Explosive Safety Board in early 2000. In the summer of 2000, the oil company PEMEX sent him to teach their engineers about lightning safety at a large refinery in southern Mexico. In Feb. 2001 he went to Costa Rica to help with lightning problems at a major short wave radio station.

He wrote an article in *Golf Course Superintendent*, March 2000, on Lightning Safety for Golf Course Shelters. He published an article about protecting trees from lightning in *Arbor Age*, May 1994. He was behind the scenes helping the NCAA develop their first-ever lightning safety policy for 12,000 colleges and universities in 1997. He has been a frequent speaker at USGA regional symposiums over the past five years.